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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND
COORDINATION
Thirty-second session
11-22 May 1992
Agenda item 9

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE FIRST PART OF ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Miss Sally E. MOSS (Bahamas)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

B. Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

General considerations

Discussion

1. The Chairman, in his introduction, recalled that the medium-term plan is a basic policy document of the United Nations and that the Committee for Programme and Coordination was requested to thoroughly consider the proposed revisions. While the Committee considered the substance of the revisions, it was also invited to pay attention to the format of the plan. In that connection, he recalled General Assembly resolution 45/253, in which the Assembly called for increased conciseness of the plan. He suggested that the Committee consider revising the format of the plan, making it a more concise document with a strong emphasis on the policies of the Organization. He proposed that the Committee recommend to the General Assembly that the Secretariat should provide to the Committee at its thirty-third session a

proposal containing a possible new format of the plan, taking into account the need to be clear about the established mandates and the policy directives.

2. A number of delegations recalled that the medium-term plan was the principal policy directive of the United Nations and that the introduction to the plan was a key integral element of the planning process. They were of the view that consideration of the proposed revisions would have been greatly facilitated if the Secretary-General had submitted a document or a statement containing a comprehensive assessment of the changes that have occurred since the plan was adopted by the General Assembly in 1990 and an overview of the objectives, strategies and priorities of the Organization in the coming years. Such a document or statement would have enabled delegations to place the proposed revisions in a proper perspective.

3. A number of delegations considered that in several programmes the format and presentation of the proposed revisions did not enable them to assess the rationale for the revisions.

Conclusions and recommendations

4. The Committee took note of the statement by the Acting Controller that a number of documents would be provided to the Committee at the second part of its thirty-second session and that those documents would provide delegations with an overview of the changes that have taken place recently and the new orientations and priorities of the United Nations.

5. The Committee expressed the hope that during its resumed session the Secretary-General would be in a position to present his views to the Committee on the direction in which he would like the Organization to go and his proposals to Member States, based on an assessment of the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/232.

6. The Committee recommended that the format of the revisions to the medium-term plan to be submitted to the Committee at the second part of its thirty-second session be improved so as to facilitate their consideration by delegations. In that context, the Committee recommended that appropriate explanations be provided for the proposed changes in respect of each programme.

7. The Committee noted that the proposed revisions to 5 of the 10 programmes submitted to the first part of the session had not been reviewed by the relevant intergovernmental bodies. The Committee reiterated the need to improve the consultative process with Member States and recommended that appropriate measures be devised for that purpose.

8. The Committee agreed that while the conclusions and recommendations of the first part of its thirty-second session reflected the Committee's views on specific programmes, those conclusions and recommendations could be adjusted,

if necessary, during the second part of its thirty-second session in the light of the relevant information to be provided.

9. The Committee agreed to continue to consider the issue of the format of the medium-term plan and ways in which it could become a more effective tool for programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation, during the second part of its thirty-second session.